

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, October 23, 2008

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Ilean Rabens, Greg Thompson, and Carlos Sosa
- Absent: Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the month of September were approved. - Perrou/McNeill

IV. Chair and Vice Chair Reports

Jerry Lubin, Chair – Reported on the following:

Conference-A Transformational Learning Opportunity – Supervisor Don Knabe sponsored a conference, *“A Transformational Learning Opportunity...Understanding How Trauma and Violence Impact Children and Youth”* on October 1, 2008 that featured three experts in the field of trauma and violence. Dr. Marvin J. Southard, along with County Probation Officer Robert B. Taylor attended the conference; Dr. Southard commented the “training day” focused on the collective efforts on healing youth who have experienced violence and trauma in their lives. Understanding trauma and how it affects children is critical in helping understand treatment options that are available.

Joint Commissions’ Meeting – Commissioner Lubin attended the inaugural meeting of nine county commissions which have advisory responsibility for essential county programs concerned with health and other services for families and children in our communities. The group met to agree on mutual agendas for certain topics of concern to these commissions. Although many topics were presented and discussed by representatives of the various commissions, the spreading of influenza by children was the most urgent issue raised by Dr. Breslow, Public Health Commissioner. The group plans to select an issue for collaboration, a lead person for 2009, and develop a plan of action for the topic. Commissioner Lubin will report the outcome from the next meeting.

EMS (Emergency Medical Services) – County Counsel will be involved in developing a workable solution for operating an alternative transportation system for individuals detained in the field under WIC 5150 and 5585 by peace officers. Dr. Rod Shaner will take the lead to prepare an initial draft of association issues and challenges to assist County Counsel.

Larry Gasco, Vice Chair

Commissioner Gasco shared how he appreciated being asked to assist in identifying an American Indian to participate in SPA 3 PEI steering committees by Alfredo Larios, DMH Program Head. Commissioner Gasco plans to attend the American Indian UREP (Under Represented Ethnic Population) meeting and will report on outcomes at upcoming commission meetings.

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Lana Brody – The committee members to plan the 10th Annual Volunteer Award program are as follows:

Frank Baron	Barry Perrou
Arnold Gilberg	Victoria Sofro
Delores Huffman	

The venue for the 10th Annual Volunteer Award program will be Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. The tentative date is May 21, 2009.

“The Soloist” movie screening and distribution has been postponed until March 2009. The delay was due to its late release date and the potential for an academy award is better next year. Commissioner Brody will notify the commission as details are available.

Commissioner Victoria Sofro – The funding is in place for the Connections for Life Conference scheduled April 1, 2009 at the California Endowment Center. Commissioner Sofro thanked DMH for playing a major role in sponsorship. Paul Barry from “The Village” in Long Beach will be the moderator.

Commissioner Delores Huffman – Ms. Huffman reported on the following –

- **Housing Trust Fund** - The Department convened six review panels to evaluate submitted proposals from March to May 2008. 12 project sponsors have been recommended for funding. Award letters were sent out during the week of September 15th, and the Department is currently in contract negotiations with recommended awardees. The Department will then request approval from the BOS to amend their existing contract (if they currently have one) or execute a new agreement and incorporate the new funding and exhibit.

- **MHSA Housing Program** - The supportive service plans for three different projects are being reviewed by the Department. Upon completion of this process, the Department will post a summary of the projects for public review and comment on the DMH website (<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>) for 30 days. There are currently three projects posted for review: Courtyards in Long Beach, Daniel's Village, and Glenoaks Gardens. Upon completion of the 30 day public review process, project sponsors are invited to submit a full application to CalHFA and State DMH for final approval and granting of the award. At this time, the Department has submitted two full applications to CalHFA and the State on behalf of the project sponsors, WORKS and LA Family Housing Corporation.

In order to generate greater interest in the MHSA Housing Program, on October 27th 2008, the Department is holding a half-day conference at the California Endowment to encourage specific housing developers targeting older adults to collaborate with service providers who also serve this population.

- **Project Update** – Twenty-one letters of interest have been completed the review process and new applications continue to be evaluated.
- **MHSA Housing Advisory Board Update** - The Department is currently recruiting more mental health consumers and family members to participate on the Advisory Board.

Commissioner Frank Baron – Attended the quarterly California Local Mental Health Board meeting along with Commissioner Hayward McNeill and Executive Director Terry Nwachie on October 23, 2008 in Folsom, CA. The attendees discussed the changes in responsibilities and accountability proposed by the new CALMHBC leadership. Terry Nwachie and Susan Rajlal were invited to do a presentation at the next quarterly meeting January 15-17, 2009 in Ontario California.

Commissioner Barry Perrou – Discussed his involvement with CIT training programs sponsored by California Institute of Mental Health. The institute promotes programs statewide to train police officers on dealing with persons who are in a psychiatric crisis. Orange County has plans to conduct 1000 sessions by mid 2009.

- **Sheriff Mental Health Training** – In order to maintain ongoing efforts with Sheriff Department to train law enforcement on mental health issues and reduce the stigma in mental health, Sheriff Department will provide updates.

William Hong, Sheriff Department, discussed the following goals:

- a) Plans to make site visits to agencies
- b) Wants to work with clients in a community setting
- c) Wants to reduce stigma of mental health

- d) Change the view of actions of inmates issue may pertain to lack of meds or pharmacological issue
- e) 50 officers attended the recent NAMI walks
- f) Increase participation on NAMI “In Our Own Voice”

VI. Departmental Report

Marvin J. Southard, Director

Dennis Murata, Deputy Director

MHSA Update – Mr. Murata provided updates on the current status of the MHSA plans ready to be submitted to the state. The PEI plan will be presented in November 7, 2008 and includes suicide, prevention of school violence, and reducing stigma. The next step for the process is a public hearing sponsored by the Commission possibly at the November 20th meeting.

State guidelines for the Innovation portion will be released by November 2008.

Budget – DMH has not been asked to cut its budget. This is a result of the cooperation and team work between both contract agencies and the department to make critical budget adjustments to agency agreements. The reduction of sales tax revenue will be an issue to address for next year’s budget. The department is experiencing the same economic downturn affects from the lack of consumer spending. The department will not have the flexibility of adjusting contract agency funding as did for this fiscal year and MHSA funds have been committed and not available for a safety net.

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal – briefly discussed the following issues:

State legislation was at stalemate awaiting the passage of the budget with the Governor threatening to veto all bills sent to him before the Legislature passed a balanced budget. The usual energy devoted to the review and amendment of numerous bills related to mental health care was usurped by the continuing need to review and comment on the numerous budget proposals that surfaced during this summer’s negotiations.

In the end, most of the bills tracked either died due to time limits or were vetoed. Most significantly our bill SB 292, rewritten as AB 1805, related to payment for out of state placement of foster youth in for-profit facilities was vetoed.

Bills of interest that passed included the following:

- AB 1545 - Professions and vocations. This bill establishes a new Dental Board of California, Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Board and a Board of Barbering and Cosmetology and requires each board to appoint an executive officer.

- AB 1780 – Mental Health Managed Care contracts. Would provide that State DMH's oversight may include client record reviews of EPSDT specialty mental health services. The bill authorizes DMH to contract with an independent nongovernmental entity to conduct the record reviews. The bill further requires DMH to recover any overpayments that are found through the record review.
- AB 1897 - Licensure for MFTs. Specifies that a doctorate or master's degree approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education as of 6/30/07 shall be considered by the board to meet the specified licensure and registration requirements if the degree is conferred prior to July 1, 2010.
- AB 1927 – Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. Changes the educational requirements for psychiatric technicians.
- AB 2352 – Health Services: confidential information. Makes technical changes related to sharing of health care information and care plans for minors between probation officers, county social workers and care providers.
- AB 2370 – Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly; rate increases. Requires the licensee of a residential care facility for the elderly to prepare a document outlining the average monthly rate increase for services over the past 3 years and to provide it to all new and prospective residents by January 31 of each year.
- AB 2439 - Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program: fees. Changes the fee to \$25 and makes the payment of the fee mandatory for applicants for issuance or renewal of a license for a physician or surgeon. Also provides that 15% of funds collected will be dedicated to loan assistance for physicians and surgeons who agree to practice in geriatric settings.
- AB 2809 – Crime Victims: mental health counseling. Authorizes the board to reimburse the cost of mental health outpatient counseling in an amount not to exceed \$5000. For any minor who suffers an emotional injury as the result of witnessing a violent crime.
- AB 3083 – Mental Health: veterans. Makes services available to veterans to the extent that they are available to other adults. Also includes bipolar disorder and post traumatic stress disorder in the definition of a serious mental disorder.
- SB 797 – Professions and Vocations. Specifies that the authorization to suspend or revoke a license is in addition to any other action that the board is permitted to take against the licensee.
- SB 1140 – Financial Abuse of Elder or Dependent Adults. Changes the definition of financial abuse to include taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining and retaining (or assisting in same) the real or personal property of an elder or dependent adult by undue influence.
- SB 1147 – Medi-Cal Eligibility: juvenile offenders. As of 1/1/10 requires that individuals under age 21 that are inmates in an institution

have their Medi-Cal benefits suspended rather than terminated for the period of their residence in the institution.

- SB 1250 – Juveniles: communications. Requires the public officer in charge of a minor in custody to notify the parent or guardian of the minor of a suicide attempt, serious injury or offense committed within 24 hours unless there are extenuating circumstances. Also has provisions regarding informed consent.
- SB 1307 – Pharmacy: pedigree. Would, on or after 1/1/15, define a pedigree as specified and would revise the information required to be contained in a pedigree to include a specified identification number.
- SB 1380 – Foster Care. Would extend the applicability of the adjusted point ranges designating each RCL.
- SB 1533 – Health Care Service Plans: mental health services. Requires a health plan that provides coverage for professional mental health services to include information on its Web site that will assist subscribers and enrollees in accessing mental health services.

VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports

SAAC 2 – Roberta Burkenheim reported on the following topics discussed at the last SAAC meeting:

- PEI – Two community forums will take place in the service area to discuss the PEI plan.
- Eva Carrera returned to the service area from coordinating a successful WET plan project for MHSA. The service area is glad that Ms. Carrera is back working with Ron Klein.
- Client Run Center identified 100 participants who provide about 4000 hours per month.

SAAC 6 – Commissioner Delores Huffman report the following topics discussed at the last SAAC meeting:

- Yolanda Whittington was appointed District Chief to oversee services provided in Service Area 6. Ms. Whittington replaced Renee Woodruff who retired.
- Ms. Robbie Belcher, Principal, Bakewell Primary Center (elementary school), requested mental health services for her students. Mental health services are critical and badly needed.
- The PEI community forums will take place during the month of November.

VIII. Public Comments -

- William Legere – Spoke on the rights of consumers and building capacity.
- Maria – Commented on an announcement made by Commission Chair regarding the refreshments at commission meetings.
- Rosita Garcia – Commented on the announcement made by the Commission Chair regarding the refreshments at commission meetings.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

X. Next Meeting Information

The next scheduled meeting will be:

Thursday, November 20, 2008

12 – 2:30 pm

Hahn Hall of Administration – Room 739

500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ch/ch